

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A light-emitting semiconductor device which comprises an n-layer of n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor ($\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$; inclusive of $x=0$) and an i-layer of insulating gallium nitride compound semiconductor ($\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$; inclusive of $x=0$) doped with p-type impurities, wherein at least one of said n-layer and said i-layer is of double-layer structure, the respective layers of said double-layer structure having different concentrations.

2. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said n-layer is of double-layer structure including an n-layer of low carrier concentration and an n^+ -layer of high carrier concentration, the former being adjacent to said i-layer.

3. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said i-layer is of double-layer structure including an i_L -layer of low impurity concentration containing p-type impurities in comparatively low concentration and an i_H -layer of high impurity concentration containing p-type impurities in comparatively high concentration, the former being

adjacent to said n-layer.

4. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said n-layer is of double-layer structure including an n-layer of low carrier concentration and an n^+ -layer of high carrier concentration, the former being adjacent to said i-layer, and said i-layer is of double-layer structure including an i_L -layer of low impurity concentration containing p-type impurities in comparatively low concentration and an i_H -layer of high impurity concentration containing p-type impurities in comparatively high concentration, the former being adjacent to said n-layer.

5. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the thickness of said n-layer is $2.5 - 12 \mu m$.

6. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carrier concentration of said n-layer is $1 \times 10^{14} - 1 \times 10^{19} / cm^3$.

7. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the thickness of said n-

layer of low carrier concentration is $0.5 - 2 \mu\text{m}$ and the thickness of said n^+ -layer of high carrier concentration is $2 - 10 \mu\text{m}$.

8. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the carrier concentration of said n -layer of low carrier concentration is $1 \times 10^{14} - 1 \times 10^{17} / \text{cm}^3$ and the carrier concentration of said n^+ -layer of high carrier concentration is $1 \times 10^{17} - 1 \times 10^{19} / \text{cm}^3$.

9. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the thickness of said i -layer is $0.03 - 1.3 \mu\text{m}$.

10. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the impurity concentration of said i -layer is $1 \times 10^{16} - 5 \times 10^{20} / \text{cm}^3$.

11. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the thickness of said i_L -layer of low impurity concentration is $0.01 - 1 \mu\text{m}$ and the thickness of said i_H -layer of high impurity concentration is $0.02 - 0.3 \mu\text{m}$.

12. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the impurity concentration of said i_L -layer of low impurity concentration is $1 \times 10^{16} - 5 \times 10^{19} / \text{cm}^3$ and the impurity concentration of said i_H -layer of high impurity concentration is $1 \times 10^{19} - 5 \times 10^{20} / \text{cm}^3$.

13. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said n^+ -layer of high carrier concentration is doped with silicon.

14. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said n^+ -layer of high carrier concentration is doped with silicon.

15. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein both said i_L -layer of low impurity concentration and said i_H -layer of high impurity concentration are doped with zinc, the amount of doped zinc in said i_H -layer of high impurity concentration being higher than that in said i_L -layer of low impurity concentration.

16. A light-emitting semiconductor device as claimed in Claim 4, wherein both said i_L -layer of low impurity concentration and said i_H -layer of high

impurity concentration are doped with zinc, the amount of doped zinc in said i_H -layer of high impurity concentration being higher than that in said i_L -layer of low impurity concentration.

17. A method for producing a light-emitting semiconductor device comprising an n-layer of n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor ($Al_xGa_{1-x}N$; inclusive of $x=0$) and an i-layer of insulating gallium nitride compound semiconductor ($Al_xGa_{1-x}N$; inclusive of $x=0$) doped with p-type impurities from organometal compound by vapor phase epitaxy, comprising the steps of:

feeding a silicon-containing gas and other raw material gases together at a controlled mixing ratio to a substrate; and

growing said n-layer having a controlled conductivity.

18. A method as claimed in Claim 17, comprising:

growing an n^+ -layer of high carrier concentration, which is an n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor ($Al_xGa_{1-x}N$; inclusive of $x=0$) having a comparatively high conductivity, on said substrate

having a buffer layer of aluminum nitride formed thereon, by feeding said silicon-containing gas and said other raw material gases together at a controlled mixing ratio; and

growing an n-layer of low carrier concentration, which is an n-type gallium nitride compound semiconductor ($\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$; inclusive of $x=0$) having a comparatively low conductivity, on said n^+ -layer, by feeding said raw material gases excluding said silicon-containing gas.

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